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14 MAY 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Logistics

SUBJECT: Proposed GSA Regulation, Section 204.00, Chapter VIII, Title 2, Real Property Management

1. A copy of the proposed GSA regulation described above was forwarded to us from the office of the Deputy Director (Support) with a note to the effect that any comments should be transmitted to you.

2. It is our understanding that the proposed regulation would apply to Agency headquarters buildings both here and at the proposed site of the new building. The regulation would give the General Services Administration final control over and responsibility for all concessions. We do not favor this provision for the following reasons:

a. While it may be reasonably assumed that GSA will provide satisfactory service, the final authority for developing and maintaining standards of satisfactory service is vested in GSA, rather than in the tenant agency. GSA would control such factors as type of service, articles to be sold, prices, selection of concessionaires, inspection, etc. Tenant agencies, responsible for its personnel, are thereby prevented from participating in the determination of policy vitally affecting the health and welfare of its employees.

b. Under the provisions of Comptroller General Decision No. B-112840, 17 November 1952, vending machines may be owned and operated by employee groups or associations, the profits thereof to be used for employee general welfare activities. Under the terms of the proposed GSA Regulation, the provision of the Comptroller General Decision would be nullified, thereby eliminating a badly needed source of revenue for recreation and welfare.

c. The GSA would be authorized to request agencies to stagger their lunch period. This would have a beneficial effect in reducing the congestion in the cafeterias and snack bars between Noon and 1:00 p.m. Nevertheless, it would appear to adversely affect the morale and perhaps the work of employees who, for the most part, have been free agents in selecting the most convenient time for lunch.

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d. The regulation encourages consumption of foods and beverages at the point of purchase. Six rules govern the removal of food from the concession area, the violation of which would eliminate such removal, by authority of the Administration. The effect of such a ruling would either modify or eliminate the "coffee break" or result in a considerable amount of time lost by employees having to take their coffee break at the concession site rather than at their desk. This would appear to be contrary to the best interests of the Agency.

e. The regulation provides for GSA selection of concessionaires and it may be reasonably assumed that Government Services, Inc., would continue to hold the concession for restaurants and cafeterias. The majority of Agency employees responding to our recent questionnaire concerning cafeteria facilities in the new building expressed opposition to and dissatisfaction with the present GSI management.

Signed

Harrison G. Reynolds  
Director of Personnel

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